

# Kelly continues fight against university

Student Appeal Centre calls on Allan Rock to ‘end political persecution of criminally charged student’

Laura Clementson | Fulcrum Staff

AFTER OVER A year of constant battle with the University of Ottawa, undergraduate physics and mathematics student Marc Kelly is once again putting pressure on the U of O administration.

According to a Oct. 21 Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO) press release, “the Student Appeals Centre (SAC) of the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa, a main body defending student rights at U of O, has publicly called on President Allan Rock to end his administration’s protracted repression of mathematics student Marc Kelly, by email and on its blog.”

SAC director Mireille Gervais noted that the latest conflict between Kelly and the U of O was ignited when the U of O offered to film his class and then reversed their decision.

“That was the clincher for us,” said Gervais. “We just had to act, because negotiating directly with the administration was no longer going anywhere, so we decided to make the story public.”

According to Gervais, Kelly is trying to complete his degree, although he is having difficulties due to court conditions with the university. One of the conditions does not allow Kelly to access any U of O property and another prevents him from having direct or indirect contact with

U of O President Allan Rock. Marc Kelly was first arrested at a U of O Senate meeting for attempting to film the proceedings in December 2008.

“The courts are protecting Allan Rock,” said Gervais.

The SAC is trying to instruct legal counsel to petition the Crown in favour of Kelly.

“The SFUO’s position on this case is the same as in all cases of academic appeals—the student deserves consideration of his case,” said SFUO VP University Affairs Ted Horton in an email to the *Fulcrum*. “The Student Appeals Centre, a service of the SFUO, is assisting the student in navigating the appeals process,” Horton continued.

Gervais also noted that Kelly has been asked to email his assignments and use online notes to study.

“Silence is usually a tactic of the administration ... We will follow up and we will get a response,” said Gervais.

She further noted that the SAC has presented a motion at the SFUO Campaigns Committee called the “Right to Campus Campaign” in support of Marc Kelly.

Kelly was unreachable at press time. The University of Ottawa administration declined to comment because the matter is before the courts. f



photo by Ian Flett

Getting his voice heard:

Marc Kelly speaks during a question-and-answer period with Allan Rock on Oct. 24, 2008.

## Resignation pressure PIDSSA director of communications steps down

Charlotte Bailey | Fulcrum Staff

A STUDENT ASSOCIATION lost its director of communications last week when Guy Hughes resigned to avoid possible impeachment.

Having been unanimously appointed to the volunteer position for the Political, International, and Development Studies Student Association (PIDSSA), Hughes was forced to resign after rumours of a possible impeachment began circulating.

“At a [Oct. 21 PIDSSA] meeting that I did not attend, they adopted a motion behind camera. A motion was received to remove me from office,” said Hughes. Hughes said he felt that the motion was invalid, and believes it violates the PIDSSA constitution.

“I resigned so that there would be no confusion as to whether or not I was the director of communications anymore,” continued Hughes.

Hughes noted that he is unaware of why the motion was passed.

“I’ve received absolutely no reason, and [at] this time, no member of the executive committee has communicated with me any reason that showed any poor performance,” he explained.

Hughes also claimed that he would have been impeached incorrectly if he hadn’t decided to resign first.

“There’s a clear process in the constitution that [this impeachment would not] follow,” he said.

The constitution states that a petition must be circulated among PIDSSA and a vote must then be held within seven days. However, PIDSSA VP External Affairs Kyle Simunovic noted that the policy applies only to executives who are voted in, as opposed to the volunteer positions, such as the one that Hughes was filling.

“There were a few performance-related issues,” said Simunovic. “And he was given a lot of feedback from multiple executives (the president [and] myself) who had things to do and sort of depended

on this position to get things done.”

The director of communications is responsible for PIDSSA communication, through email, its website, and other channels, and was therefore a job that PIDSSA members relied on heavily.

Simunovic also noted that Hughes threatened to resign numerous times, which would have left PIDSSA in a bind because of its reliance on the tasks that Hughes was performing, such as continuously updating the website.

“I would say he was holding us hostage in some cases. There were many issues that came up more than once, from more than one executive member. It wasn’t just one event or one issue, it was many compiled issues,” Simunovic continued.

The PIDSSA executive is now searching for a new director of communications. Applications are due Nov. 6 and can be dropped off at Desmarais Hall, room 2155. f